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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: James H. McDonald
Chairman, Language Development Committee

SUBJECT: ORD New Initiative Entitled "Language School Upgrade"

1. The Language Development Committee (LDC) was briefed on 14 February concerning the above-mentioned ORD initiative, an integrated computer-based training system for the Language School. I am writing to express the LDC's strong support of this new initiative.

2. As you know, one of the charges of the LDC is to document the accumulated foreign language competence of the Agency. We have been gratified over the past few years to note modest increases in the Agency's linguistic capability, increases that have been brought about not only by hiring language-qualified personnel, but particularly by increasing the amount of language training that we do. Until recently the Language School has been able to hire additional staff to accommodate increased training requirements. In the future, while requirements levied on the Language School are likely to continue to increase, concomitant increases in staffing levels may not be possible. Clearly, if we are to maintain or increase our critical language skills, we must find ways to better utilize the manpower we have. One way to do this is through interactive computer-based training. A significant activity of the proposed project would be to put in place a Computer Learning Laboratory in which students, instructors, and staff of the Language School can educate themselves about computer learning in general and our curriculum in particular so that the final products of the project will have the best chance of successful implementation.

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3. In sum, we are convinced of the criticality of the need for this project and are impressed by its technical merit. We urge you to give this proposed project a high priority in your ranking of DS&T New Initiatives for FY 1985.

James H. McDonald
Chairman
Language Development Committee

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Chief, S&G/LS/OTE

EXTENSION

NO.

OTE 83-3704

DATE

17 February 1983

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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